

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

S E C R E T STATE 304964

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AD

SUBJECT: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: REPORT  
NUMBER 6

REF: STATE 302053

FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

UPDATE ON REFERENCED SUBJECT FOLLOWS:

A. CUBAN AND SOVIET TECHNICIANS ARE REPORTEDLY  
ASSEMBLING TWELVE MIG AIRCRAFT AT THE AIRPORT IN LUANDA,  
ANGOLA, BUT THIS REPORT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. THREE  
FORMER PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE SERGEANTS, WITH ASSISTANCE  
FROM CUBANS AND SOVIETS, HAVE REPAIRED THREE T-6 TRAINER  
AIRCRAFT AT LUANDA AND A B-26 BOMBER IS UNDERGOING REPAIRS.

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PORTUGAL LEFT THE T-6'S AND THE B-26 IN ANGOLA WHEN

PORTUGUESE MILITARY PERSONNEL WITHDREW FROM THERE.

B. FROM 8 TO 18 DECEMBER 1975, APPROXIMATELY TWENTY CUBAN AND SOVIET SHIPS WERE SEEN UNLOADING PERSONNEL AND MILITARY SUPPLIES--ARTILLERY, ARMORED CARS, AND TRUCKS--AT POINTE NOIRE, CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE). AS OF 18 DECEMBER SEVEN SHIPS WERE IN PORT. MOST OF THE TWENTY SHIPS WERE ;GING CARGO VESSELS. THE MEN AND EQUIPMENT UNLOADED FROM THE SHIPS WERE SENT TO CABINDA.

C. A CUBAN AIRCRAFT, KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA, WAS EN ROUTE TO THE AZORES ON 23 DECEMBER.

D. IN MID-DECEMBER, A YOUNG CUBAN SOLDIER CAPTURED IN ANGOLA SAID THAT CUBAN TROOPS ARE FIGHTING IN THE FRONT LINES. HE ALSO SAID THAT CUBAN OFFICERS HAVE SHOT SOLDIERS OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA) WHO REFUSED TO FIGHT.

E. MPLA LEADERS HAVE ASKED THAT CUBAN TROOPS WHO WERE FIGHTING IN THE QUIFANGONDO (08-44 S, 13-27 E--GRIDS) AREA IN MID-DECEMBER BE TRANSFERRED TO THE BUILA (11-12 S, 20-20 E--GRIDS) AREA.

F. A CUBAN DIPLOMAT POSTED IN LATIN AMERICA FREELY ADMITTED THAT CUBA IS INVOLVED IN ANGOLA. HE CLAIMED THAT CUBANS ALONE HAD MADE THE DECISION TO INTERVENE THERE AND THAT CUBA DID NOT ACT BECAUSE OF SOVIET PRESSURE. HE SAID THAT CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA IS NATURAL AND JUSTIFIED IF ONE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE LONG HISTORY OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. IN A SPEECH AT THE CLOSE OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA (PCC) ON 22 DECEMBER, PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO RUZ ALSO DEFENDED CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA AND PROMISED THAT CUBA WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE MPLA IN ITS FIGHT FOR THE CONTROL OF ANGOLA. JORGE RISQUET, A MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PCC WHO REPORTEDLY WAS IN ANGOLA ON 3 DECEMBER, WAS BACK IN HAVANA FOR THE PCC CONGRESS.

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G. ON 18 DECEMBER 1975 ADDITIONAL CUBAN REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED IN LUANDA WITH AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES. THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN LUANDA IS NOW HIGHLY VISIBLE, WITH CUBANS STANDING GUARD AT THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE.

H. IN THE BASE OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA), LOCATED AT MALANJE, THERE

ARE 750 CUBAN TROOPS HOUSED IN QUARTERS SEPARATE FROM THE MPLA TROOPS. THESE CUBANS HAVE THREE TANKS, ABOUT TEN ARMORED VEHICLES, AND SEVERAL TRUCKS WITH MISSILE LAUNCHERS.

ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

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